

Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /071 W

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O 111113Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 688

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

AMCONSUL UDORN

DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 2430

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, TH

SUBJ: STATUS OF GOVERNMENT FORMATION

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF : BANGKOK 2324

BEGIN SUMMARY: TWO PROMINENT THAI PREDICT THAT KHUKRIT PRAMOT WILL BE THAILAND'S NEXT PRIME MINISTER. FOR DIFFERENT REASONS, BOTH ARE UNHAPPY WITH THAT POSSIBILITY. END SUMMARY.

1. DR. KAMON THONGTHAMMACHAT, DEAN OF CHULALONGKON UNIVERSITY'S POLITICAL SCIENCE FACULTY, ADDRESSED THE
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LOCAL AMERICAN FOREIGN SERVICE ASSOCIATION CHAPTER FEBRUARY

11 ON THE MEANING OF THE THAI ELECTIONS. WHILE SOME OF HIS REMARKS WERE CONTRADICTORY, AND REFLECTED THE CLOUDINESS WHICH ALL OBSERVERS ARE ENCOUNTERING IN TRYING TO DEFINE THE NEXT POLITICAL STEP IN THAILAND, KAMON CONTENDED THAT THAILAND'S NEW PRIME MINISTER WOULD BE KHUKRIT PRAMOT. HE SAID KHUKRIT IS ACCEPTABLE TO THE MONARCHY, THE MILITARY AND BUSINESSMEN.

2. KAMON THEN ADDED THAT HE HOPED HIS PREDICTION WOULD BE WRONG. HE BELIEVED THAT THE CONSERVATIVE FORCES WOULD MANIPULATE KHUKRIT WHOSE SOCIAL ACTION PARTY OBTAINED ONLY 18 SEATS IN THE RECENT JANUARY ELECTIONS. HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT THE CONSERVATIVES WOULD ENCOURAGE LEGISLATION WHICH WOULD AMELIORATE SOME OF THAILAND'S INCOME AND SOCIAL DISPARITIES. NOR WOULD A KHUKRIT-LED GOVERNMENT BE WILLING OR ABLE TO IMPLEMENT THE LAND REFORM LAW.

3. AN EMBASSY OFFICER HAD A SEPARATE LUNCH FEBRUARY 11 WITH SOMKHIT SISANGKHOM, THE LEADER OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY OF THAILAND. SOMKHIT, WHILE NOT GIVING A SPECIFIC NAME, SAID HE BELIEVED THAT A CONSERVATIVE LEADER WOULD BECOME PRIME MINISTER, AND HE HINTED THAT KHUKRIT WAS THE MOST LIKELY MAN. SOMKHIT WAS ALSO UNHAPPY WITH THAT POSSIBILITY BECAUSE HE SAID KHUKRIT HAD BETRAYED THE DEMOCRAT PARTY BY VOTING FOR PRASIT KANCHANAWAT FOR ASSEMBLY SPEAKER FEBRUARY 6. HE USED THIS EXAMPLE TO ILLUSTRATE HIS OPINION THAT KHUKRIT WAS A COMPLETE OPPORTUNIST. SOMKHIT HAD LITTLE USE FOR THE DEMOCRATS EITHER. HE SAID THAT THEY HAD AGREED TO SUPPORT HIM FOR SPEAKER, THEN REVERSED THEMSELVES, AND PUT UP THEIR OWN CANDIDATE.

4. SOMKHIT BELIEVED THAT THE PROCESS OF SELECTING THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD BE ALL OVER WITHIN THE NEXT COUPLE OF DAYS.
KINTNER

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